

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, October 22. 1709.

AND now, good People all, will you allow me to preach a little? — It is not often that I trouble you with any of my Divinity; I acknowledge, the Pulpit is none of my Office — It was my Disaster first to be set a-part for, and then to be set a-part from the Honour of that Sacred Employ — But suffer a Man loaded with your most contemptible Thoughts, and as much as you please scorn'd and reproach'd, to turn upon you with Instruction, and attempt to move you in a Thing which it is your Interest to regard; perhaps you will not hear, because of the Man that speaks — Be that at your own Doors.

*Dost thou teach US? Says the proud Haters of this Paper, and its Author; Thou that wert altogether born in Sin, dost thou teach US? — Look you, Gentlemen—Your Contempt I have learn'd to contemn, I scorn the Scorners — It has been my Honour to be heard and valued by the best King that ever reign'd over you — And I can, with a Boasting not contrary to Modesty, write it on my Grave, as the true Character of my Life,
By wise Men courted, and by Fools despis'd.*

He that cannot live above the Scorn of Scoundrels, is not fit to live; Dogs will bark. Malice will rage, Slander will revile —
and

and they shall ; without lessening one Moment of my Tranquillity.

*When Envy grins, and Slander barks,
And clamouring Monsters rail ;
They neither can my Passions move,
Or on my Smiles prevail.*

I premise this, to anticipate the scandalous Folly of them, who value themselves upon *speaking Evil* of the Men they know not, and of the Things *they understand not*, and to let them know, their stinking Breath of Clamour will be lost upon me ; if I *Speak Evil*, let them bear Witness of that *Evil* ; if *Well*, let them hear the Doctrine for its own Sake——And if the Teacher should go to be hang'd, he asks them no Reprieve.

But without any more Preamble, shall I tell you my Subject? — Gentlemen, I am perswaded, the first Thought of it will strike you with some Terror, and prepare you for Seriousness and Attention——The stoutest Heart among you — tho' he could dare Heaven, blaspheme his Maker, imprecate Damnation, and desire Futurity ; yet at the Sound of my Text——Something chill and cold shall run thro' his Blood——and an involuntary Chagrin start into his brightest Air——— The Smiles shall of a sudden adjourn from his Countenance, and whether he will or no, he shall THINK a little—— A Thing very irksome to those that are not us'd to it, and especially to those that have nothing within them, which they dare think of.

My Text shall be taken out of no Book, no not the Bible——— But is the Foot of Account, or as the Merchants call it, *the Next Produce* of the present State of the World—at least of these Parts of it——— And it is in short express'd thus ;

PLAGUE, FAMINE, BLOOD.

It is a terrible Text—— The Subject requires to be handled seriously, and listen'd to awfully ; let him jest with it that dares ; I assure you, I dare not.

And now to proceed by my own Method, without Regard to Pulpit-Forms———

Take first a short View of what I mean by these three terrible Words—— in a double Proposition, (*Viz.*)

That these Three *have been*, *are at this time*, or *quickly will be*, raging all over Europe.

Take it a-part.

1. One or other of them has raged in every Part of Europe, since the Beginning of the last War.
2. All of them, *it is very likely*, will visit every Part of Europe, before the End of this War.

I cannot approve of a Temper forward to cry out——and am always for making the best of every Thing ; I hate alarming Mankind, nor am I ealie to be alarm'd my self ; before I enter therefore upon the serious Part, I shall give you an Abridgement of the State of Europe, with Respect to the three awful Word, which I call my Text——and I shall make clear to you, how all Europe has *been* afflicted, or *is* afflicted—— or what Reason we have to fear, *will be* afflicted with all these Judgments.

When I have gone thro' this, I shall treat you according to my rough and plain dealing Fashion, with some just Reproaches about your general Conduct in these Things——— Tell you, what, *had you been wise*, you had done ; what, *when you are wise*, you will do ; and what *you ought to expect*, your Maker will do —— As for Application—— You will, no doubt, make it your selves ; if not, the Consequences will apply it for you.

To begin with the Revolution ; The Calamities of Europe were coming to a Height ; the French Power was become a just Terror to all their Neighbours——— He was falling upon the Emperor, while he was embarras'd on the other hand with a War against the Turks ; Popery, by the Power of French Councils, was erecting a new Fabrick of Tyranny in Britain, when the People of England, justly alarm'd, call'd in the Aid of the Dutch——— And here began the greatest and bloodiest War that ever Europe felt ; the most terrible and most universal ; Liberty against Oppression, that

that has been the Quarrel; the Parties have been, only *France*, against almost all the rest of *Europe*, and it has now, excepting a small Interval, lasted 21 Years.

During this War, let us examine, what has *Europe* suffer'd, what Desolation, Slaughter, and Devastation has been made by the Hand of Violence, and where has the Sword devour'd, and how?

The first particular Country, that suffer'd by the Eruption of the War, was the *Palatinat*, and the Frontiers of *Germany*; after the Taking of *Phillipsburgh* in 1688, the *French* ravag'd and almost destroy'd all that Part of the Empire, burnt *Heidelberg*, *Spire*, *Manheim*, *Worms*, *Frankendale*, and above 260 Villages—— which Desolation still remains, and reduc'd the miserable Inhabitants to the Extremity of Famine, which made them fly abroad then, as many more of them have done now—— Here was FAMINE and BLOOD, by which above 30000 of the People were said to be destroy'd, and the most flourishing Country, of that Part of the World made a Desert, and in a manner remains so to this Day.

Ireland was the next that felt the Stroke; and here SICKNESS, we must not call it *Plague*, *Famine*, and *Blood*, raged for three Years—— The First carry'd off 20000 Men in our Camp at *Dundalk*, and the Enemies who lay by us—— *Famine* destroy'd, some have said, 14000 People in *London-Derry*—— I do not say it was so many, but a very great Number—— And it was King *William's* Opinion, that the *Irish* War cost, on both sides, the Lives of above 150000 People—— Besides above 18000 Men, who, at the Surrenders of *Galloway* and *Limerick*, went away into *France*, took Service in the *French* Armies, and are very few of them left.

It would be endless to trace the Expence of Blood in these Shambles of Men, *Flanders* and *Italy*; what fell at the Battles of *Walcourt*, *Flerus*, *Steenkirk*, and *Landen*?—— At the Sieges of *Mons*, *Charleroy*, and *Namure*—— All on this side, at the Battles of *Marsalia* in *Italy*; *Spirebach* and *Newburgh* in *Germany*; the several Sieges of *Landau*, *Phillipsburgh*, and *Brissac*; the Attacks of

Stolbofna, and the Fort of *Kiel*?—— These before the *French* began to sink.

Since that, let us go into *Bavaria*; there you had three Battles; One near *Nordlingen*, where Count *Stirum* was defeated; One at *Donawert*; One at *Höckstet*. What Blood, Fire, Destruction, and Ruin has *Bavaria* suffer'd?

Italy has been over-run by the *French* to the Gates of *Trent*, *Ivrea*, *Vercell*, *Casal*, and *Turin* besieg'd; various Battles at *Chiari* on the Banks of the *Adda* and the *Po*—— The *Germans* in their Turn pierce to the Borders of *France*, fight the great Battle of *Turin*, enter *Provence*, besiege *Toulon*, *Exilles*, *Fenestrelles*, and *Susa*; the *French* acknowledge to have lost above 100000 Men in *Italy*; and the *Germans*, with the *Italians* have lost full as many.

Pass then into *Spain*, to the several Sieges of *Barcelona*, the Siege of *Tortosa*, *Alicant*, *Gibraltar*, and *Lerida*, coming at last to the Battles of *Almansa* and *Badajos*—— What Blood has *Spain* cost us?—— Not to say to how little Purpose.

Thus, I think, we have search'd for Blood, and found all the Nations swimming in it. I have left out the Battles of *Ramellies*, *Oudenard*, *Winendale*, and *Mons*; the Sieges of *Menin*, *Lisle*, and *Tournay*, and all the Actions depending on these; let Men but think, what a River of Blood has run thro' these Parts of the World—— And where have any Countries been free? Go then North, and take a View of the *Hungarian* Rebellion, the War between the *Swede*, the *Poles*, the *Saxons*, and *Muscovites*, the Battles of *Narva*, *Salise*, *Cracow*, *Gorts* in *Silesia*, and *Pultowa* in *Ukraina*.

Here is a Scene of Blood—— It is too long to put the Actions together, and state the Loss in every Particular; but having cast them up by my own Account, according to general Report, I reckon, 3724000 People have perish'd since the Year 1688, by the Sword, Famine, and Distresses of War in these Parts of *Europe*—— My Next shall give some Account of the Rest.

ERRATA.

REVIEW, N^o 80. Page 317. Col. 1. Line 1. for *Reviews last*, read *last Reviews*; *ibid.* col. 2. l. 2. for *concern'd it*, r. *concern'd in it*; p. 318. col. 1. l. 37. for *by all the principal Officers of every Office under their hands*, r. *by all the Persons concern'd in it*; *ibid.* col. 2. l. 2. for *in Usum*, r. *secundum Ritum & Formulas*.

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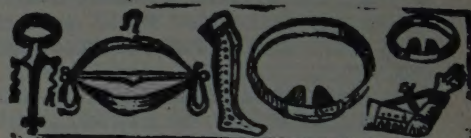
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